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Operation Humpback Help

This year, Japanese whalers planned to kill 50 humpback whales, even though hunting them has been banned since 1966. In addition, they plan to take 50 fin whales and 935 minke whales.

(Environmental News Service, Nov. 20, 2007 pdf file)



Children in classrooms around the world are joining forces in an effort to protect humpback whales from being taken by Japanese whalers. Tower School in Marblehead, Massachusetts and St. Mary's Anglican Girls' School in Perth, Western Australia are spearheading this project. Bad environmental decisions are difficult, if not impossible, to undo. Support a permanent ban on this whaling policy.



(Click image to see more pictures)

Together we can Help the Humpbacks

Join Operation Humpback Help

Who: Initiated by the Tower School [Environmental Committee](#), anyone can join [Operation Humpback Help](#). Schools, clubs, scouts, environmental groups, anyone interested in helping to persuade Japanese whalers to stop hunting humpbacks.

What: Join [Operation Humpback Help](#)

This is a student campaign to save the Humpbacks targeted by the Whaling fleets in the Southern Hemisphere.

Rather than simply sign a petition, let's combine Japanese origami with student messages from around the world. Make [pods of 50](#) (the number of humpbacks Japanese whalers plan to kill this year) origami whales, string them together, and write notes on them.

When: Make your origami whales anytime, and enjoy them in your classroom. [Contact us](#) and even send us pictures so that we can post them on this site.

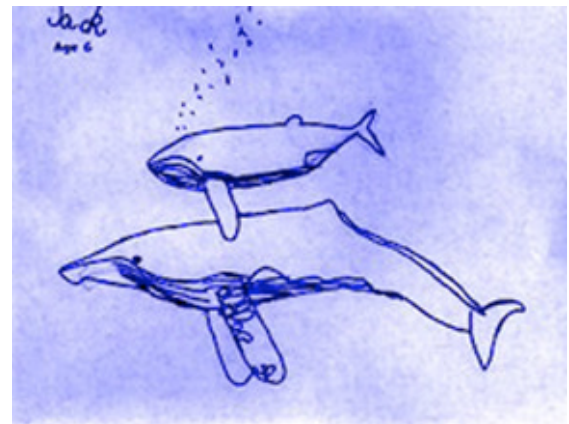
To make a big splash to support the ban on hunting humpback whales before the IWC (International Whaling Commission) meets in Chile this summer, mail the whales between May 1 and May 15.

Where:

Dr. William Hogarth
Chairman of the International Whaling Commission
NMFS, NOAA
1315 East West Highway
SSMC3, Rm 14636
Silver Spring, MD 20910
United States

Or

The Honorable Ryozo Kato
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the
United States
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008



How:

To show Japan and the world that kids care about humpbacks and the environment, **email this URL to at least 3 friends or relatives** in different schools, different states, or even different countries. (<http://whale.wheelock.edu/OperationHumpback/>) Let's make [Operation Humpback Help](#) a **GLOBAL INITIATIVE**.

Why Help:

To Help the Humpbacks, here's what kids have to say:

"Humpbacks are beautiful creatures and they are endangered." Chris, grade 4

"They are an important part of our environment and we don't want it to get out of balance." Kayjsa, grade 3

"They are part of our environment and if we don't care for them, well, it will be worse for the planet." Maddie, grade 3

"We saw them on our whale watch and it was fun." Bianca, grade 4

Finally: What do I do?

We would like to keep a count of the number of whales made so as you complete your origami whales, [PLEASE send us an email](#) with: the teacher's name and grade; the school; the city, state and country; and, the number of origami whales constructed. Also, let us know where you will send the whales in May. The information will be posted on this site.

[Origami Whale Count Data](#)

[Click to download printable copy of this project.](#)

[Message sent to The Honorable Ryozo Kato from United States Senators.](#)

[Click to download printable Origami Whale Instructions \(pdf\), \(doc\)](#)

[Humpback Whale Information Links](#)

[Educational Resources on Whales](#)



[Appreciating and Learning About LIVE Whales on a Whale Watch](#)

In the NEWS:

Japan dropped the planned taking of 50 humpbacks - which have been off-limits to commercial hunting since 1966 - at the behest of the United States, the chair of the International Whaling Commission, said Chief Cabinet Secretary Nobutaka Machimura. "The government has decided to suspend hunts of humpback whales **while talks to normalize IWC is taking place**," Machimura said, **adding the**

suspension would last a year or two. "But there will be no changes to our stance on our research whaling itself." ([USA Today, 12/21/07](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/environment/2007-12-21-japan-whaling_N.htm)) http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/environment/2007-12-21-japan-whaling_N.htm

The Japanese will attempt to take **50 fin whales**, which (like the sei and sperm whales) are listed as endangered by the World Conservation Union and by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. They also plan to hunt **50 humpback whales**, the social and charismatic species that is a favorite of the billion-dollar worldwide whale watching industry. They're known for "songs" that can last up to 24 hours, and they travel across thousands of miles. A recent study by geneticists published in the journal Science estimates their pre-whaling population at 1.5 million. Today, humpbacks may number less than 30,000. (Los Angeles Times, December 3, 2007) <http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/opinion/la-oe-heller3dec03.1.7742785.story?coll=la-news-comment>

Journalist, scientist stand against whaling

Just recently, the Japanese began a humpback whale hunt, a move that has sparked international furor among those who oppose whaling. BBC News recently reported that a Japanese whaling fleet set sail for the South Pacific to harpoon humpback whales for the first time in decades, with a goal of up to 1,000 whales, including 50 humpbacks. By Gail McCarthy, GLOUCESTER DAILY TIMES (GLOUCESTER, Mass. December 07, 2007) http://www.alliednews.com/statenews/cnhinsall_story_341231239.html

Join our fight to save the whales

Polling in Japan found while 69 per cent of Japanese people opposed whaling, most were unaware of the reality of Japanese whaling conduct. (The Daily Telegraph, December 10, 2007) <http://www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,22896853-5001021,00.html>



Making Origami Whales

Organization Links:

[American Cetacean Society](http://www.acsonline.org)
(www.acsonline.org)
[Around-n-Over](http://www.around-n-over.org/edportal/) (www.around-n-over.org/edportal/)

Partner Schools:

[Tower School](#)
[St. Mary's Anglican Girls' School](#), Perth,
Western Australia

Cetacean Society International

[\(csiwhalesalive.org/\)](http://csiwhalesalive.org/)

IFAW (www.ifaw.org)

International Whaling Commission (IWC -
www.iwcoffice.org/)

Ocean Alliance (www.oceanalliance.org)

Ocean Literacy

(www.coexploration.org/oceanliteracy/)

WhaleNet (whale.wheelock.edu)

WhaleResearch.Org

(www.whaleresearch.org/)

Tower school

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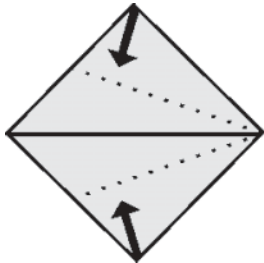
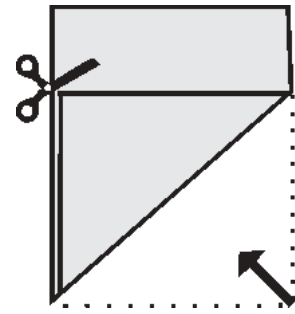


ORIGAMI WHALE

1. Make a square sheet of paper by cutting off the directions.
2. Fold on the lines indicated for your assigned whale type.
Use the picture guide instructions to assist you.

Wild type—Follow all instructions
 Type 3—Do NOT make fold B.
 Type 5—Do NOT make the short cut through the end of the fold in the tail.

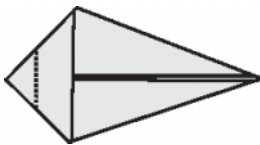
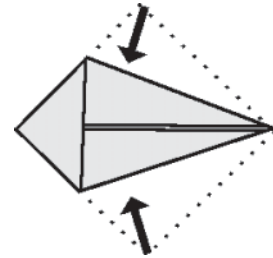
Type 2—Follow all instructions.
 Type 4—Do NOT make fold D.



Fold to center fold.

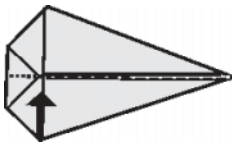
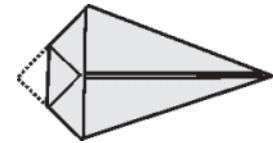
Fold two opposite side so that they meet at the fold.

FOLD A



Fold the tip over to just meet the other folds.

FOLD B



Fold the piece in half along the central axis.

FOLD C



Fold the tail up.

FOLD D



Make a short cut through the end of the fold in the tail. Fold the edges of the tail outwards.



Draw eyes, fins, and any other patterns you like, and enjoy your whale.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 29, 2007

The Honorable Ryozo Kato
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
of Japan to the United States
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador Kato:

We write today to respectfully request that Japan reconsider its impending hunt of approximately 1,000 whales, including fin and protected humpback whales. As we understand, a Japanese whaling fleet is en route to the Antarctic Ocean to hunt these mammals over the next few months for what Japan has called research purposes. We are particularly concerned about the size and scope of the hunt, and the targeting of 50 humpback whales. This is the first time Japan has sought to kill this particular species since it was protected by a worldwide moratorium in 1966.

First and foremost, we believe there are other means available for Japan to undertake scientific research on whales and whale populations. In 1986, the International Whaling Commission banned commercial whaling, while providing an exemption for scientific research. While we acknowledge the exemption, we question the necessity of conducting a hunt of this magnitude, and are strongly opposed to the targeting of protected species. Non-lethal techniques exist that allow collection of necessary data to better understand whale populations, and we encourage Japan to conduct its research using these methods.

We also worry that Japan's proposed actions could inflict significant harm on vulnerable whale populations. Whales are highly migratory animals and a shared global resource. Humpback whales, known for their unique vocalizations and athleticism, were once hunted to the brink of extinction. And although populations have increased, the World Conservation Union currently lists the humpback whale and the fin whale as vulnerable and endangered, respectively.

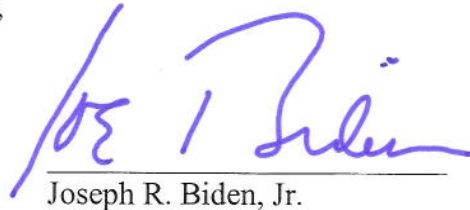
As such, we join the growing chorus of world leaders and environmental experts in asking Japan to reconsider its decision to conduct this hunt, or, at a minimum, significantly scale back its scope. We also ask that Japan immediately cease the killing of both humpback and fin whales, and only employ non-lethal techniques for studying these populations. By pursuing these actions, Japan can continue to make significant scientific contributions, while conserving and protecting these important species.

Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

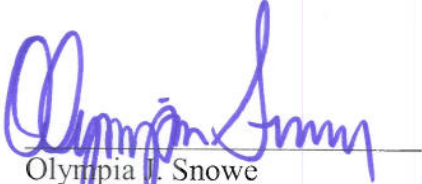
Sincerely,



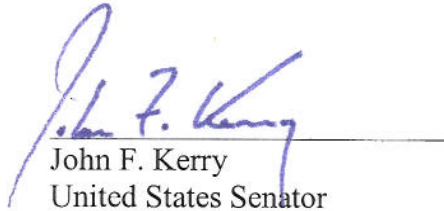
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



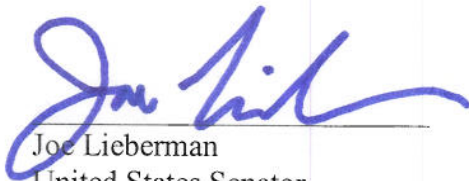
Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
United States Senator



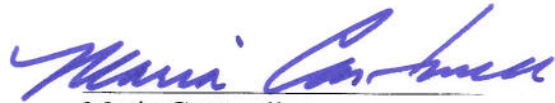
Olympia J. Snowe
United States Senator



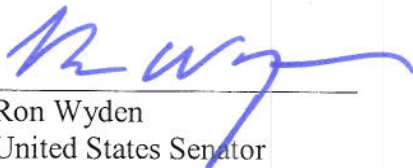
John F. Kerry
United States Senator



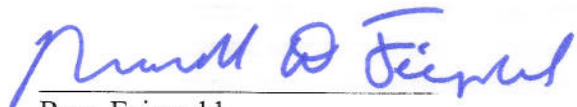
Joe Lieberman
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Russ Feingold
United States Senator